

EMMAUS WALK

This is familiar post resurrection story and it is good that we are reflecting upon in this passage the Easter Season. It is a story that has long been used as a *paradigm* for the effective teaching of RE. But this story has much wider application and I believe gives us Marists a useful lens into what it means to be *effective Marist evangelisers*. Or to use our Marist language, it provides for us a useful method of *making Jesus known and loved*. Let's look at four steps that I believe arise from this passage

STEP ONE: LISTENING

What do we read/hear ...

Two disciples making their way from Jerusalem.

They appear to be running away from something. They look sad.

Then a "stranger" draws up to them and walks with them and asks them a probing question ... What things? Then, he listens to their response.

What is the Marist lens on this part of the story?

As Marists we are all called to sidle up (be present) to those in our care who seem to be running away from something. It might be a real or an imagined fear. It might be a difficult home situation. It might be a relational issue. But more than just walking along side them, we need to listen intently to their particular story/issue before responding. In terms of our Marist *modus operandi*, we need to be fully present to them.

STEP TWO: ILLUMINATION

What do we read/hear

"Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures"

What is the Marist lens on this part of the story?

As Marists we need to use the best methods at our disposal to teach about the person of Jesus.

Making Jesus known is an essential step in evangelising those in our care BUT it is only one side of the coin for Marist evangelisation to occur. We could say that it is the head side. The other side of the coin is experienced in the next step.

STEP THREE: RECOGNITION

What do we read/hear

"Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him" This is the *catechetical moment* that I referred to the other night! It's the time when the light bulbs appear to be flashing! I think our counsellors talk about an Aha moment!

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

What is the Marist lens on this part of the story?

This is the flip side of the coin for Marist evangelisation; the heart side. It occurs when our heart connects with our head (or understanding).

As Marists we need to provide opportunities for the heart to connect to the head. Here I would suggest that sacred ritual, time for contemplation and good liturgy could be some valuable vehicles in achieving and celebrating this step.

STEP FOUR: MISSIONING

What do we read/hear

"That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem"

"Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread." They are no longer afraid and now share the story of what happened to them with others!

What is the Marist lens on this part of the story?

As Marist we need to read and share our Marist stories that keep taking us back to St Marcellin's primary motivation for Marist Mission: *to make Jesus known and loved*, and not be afraid to share this story/good news with others.

So, as we make our EMMAUS journey today, let us acknowledge that it is a journey that we are all called to make, and that we will make it many times.